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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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AM: DB10508-1103

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ACTION MEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AOS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-18 CIAE-00 EB-00  
IO-18 NSC-08 NSAE-00 COME-00 MA-06 LAB-04 PR-09  
STR-11 SIL-01 RP-10 SP-02 /120 U  
----- 338877 2002132 /63

R 200200Z OCT 81  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0601  
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR POUCH  
JMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 14091

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/27/87 (MIRSCH, J.L.) OR-P  
TAGS: ELAB, SRET, PINT, IO, UR  
SUBJECT: (C) PAKISTANI LABOR FEDERATION CONCERNS  
REGARDING AFGHAN REFUGEES

REF: FBIS LONDON 230941Z OCT 81

1. (C) - ENTIRE TEXT;

2. RECENT FBIS ITEM (REF) WITH TEXT OF ARTICLE ON  
PAKISTAN IN MOSCOW'S "KRASNAYA ZEIZDA" CONTAINED  
ASSERTION THAT ALL PAKISTAN FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS  
(APFTU) HAD PASSED A RESOLUTION URGING GOP TO STOP  
AIDING THE "AFGHAN EMIGRE RABBLE" AND USE THOSE FUNDS  
TO IMPROVE THE LIVING STANDARD OF PAKISTAN'S OWN  
PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO UNHCR  
TOLD ENBOFF OCTOBER 26, SOVIETS HAVE TWISTED THE FACTS  
TO SUIT THEIR OWN PURPOSES, BUT APFTU HAS CONVEYED TO  
THE GOP SOME CONCERNS ABOUT THE AFGHAN REFUGEE  
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B/a 5/9

3. ACCORDING TO [ ] THE APFTU HAS CALCULATED THAT THE TOTAL PACKAGE OF RELIEF BENEFITS TO AN AFGHAN REFUGEE AMOUNTS TO ABOUT RS. 1000 PER MONTH WHEREAS THE MINIMUM INDUSTRIAL WAGE IN PAKISTAN AMOUNTS TO ABOUT RS. 750 PER MONTH. (WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE FIGURE FOR REFUGEE RELIEF COMES FROM. IT STRIKES US AS HIGH SINCE EACH REFUGEE ONLY RECEIVES RS. 80 MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE FROM THE GOP PLUS FOOD FROM THE UFP WHICH WE CALCULATE WOULD COST RS. 370 PER MONTH TO BUY ON THE LOCAL MARKET. HOWEVER, THESE AMOUNTS ARE DONATED TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD AND THE AVERAGE REFUGEE FAMILY HAS SEVEN MEMBERS.) RATHER THAN CALLING FOR A DIMINUTION OF AID TO THE REFUGEES, HOWEVER, THE APFTU HAS CALLED UPON THE GOP TO RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE IN PAKISTAN TO A COMPARABLE LEVEL.

B/a 5/9

4. ANOTHER APFTU CONCERN, ACCORDING TO [ ] IS ITS BELIEF THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF THE AFGHAN REFUGEES IN THE LABOR MARKET ARE IN FACT PRO-DRA "AGENT PROVOCATEURS." THE APFTU WANTS THE GOP TO DO SOMETHING TO KEEP SUCH INDIVIDUALS FROM OBTAINING JOBS. (COMMENT: THIS NO DOUBT REFLECTS A MORE GENERAL CONCERN OVER COMPETITION FOR SCARCE JOBS BETWEEN THE REFUGEES AND LOCAL INHABITANTS.)

5. NOTE: THE APFTU IS AFFILIATED WITH THE ICFTU. CONGEN LAHORE REPORTS THAT APFTU IN FACT HAS MADE CONTRIBUTIONS TO AID THE AFGHAN REFUGEES.

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6. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED SPIERS

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